

**MINUTES
MACOMB COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2007**

President Bucci began the meeting at 12 noon held at Freedom Hill County Park.

ROLL CALL

In Attendance:

Dino F. Bucci, Jr., President
Ann E. Klein, Vice-President
William J. Revoir, Secretary
Marvin E. Sauger, Sergeant at Arms
Phillip A. DiMaria
Anthony J. Lipinski
Timothy M. Malone
Robert M. Sawicki
Gene Schabath, (Rep. Mr. Marrocco)
Betty Slinde
Ruthie Stevenson

Others Present:

Anthony G. Casasanta, Sharon Quinn, and Dave Humbyrd of Parks & Recreation;
Jim Meyerand, Corporation Counsel; Gerald Santoro, Planning

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SAUGER, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER SLINDE WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA . MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Pete Howard, 44031 Pinewood, Sterling Heights stated the Clinton River has become a very good trout stream and requested that the Master Plan include public access of the Clinton River for fishing.

Fran Parker, 13899 Brougham, Sterling Heights stated that she hopes the Commission will not raise parking fees this year and the Park website has not been updated. Ms. Parker asked that the Master Plan include something for children.

Mr. Casasanta stated that technical problems with the website have been reported to the County Information Technology Department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DIMARIA, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER SLINDE, APPROVING MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING HELD DECEMBER 12, 2006 AND SPECIAL MEETING HELD DECEMBER 19, 2006. MOTION CARRIED.

BUDGET REPORT

Mr. Casasanta referred to page 2 of the budget sheets relative to revenue for grounds rentals, building rentals and parking. Mr. Casasanta clarified that the amount under fees-other is actually revenue generated in 2005 from Hillside ticket sales.

Mr. Casasanta further stated once he receives the year-end report it will be made available to the Parks Commission.

Discussion ensued concerning actual figures that have not been received by the County.

Mr. Meyerand made a point of information that the accounting figures should be raised with the Finance Department.

Further discussion ensued.

President Bucci concurred with Commissioner Slinde's request that a representative from the Finance Department be invited to the next meeting for explanation of the budget report figures.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SAUGER, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER KLEIN TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE BUDGET REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Casasanta reported that the GTO Club chose to cancel their car show event at the County Park as they have decided to hold it at a facility closer to the Woodward Dream Cruise event.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER REVOIR, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER DIMARIA TO RECEIVE AND FILE SAID CORRESPONDENCE. MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

2007 – Parking Fee Rates

Mr. Casasanta recommended parking fees remain the same in 2007 with festival parking fees at \$6, \$5 to the Commission and \$1 rebate to sponsors; car show fees at \$7 to the Commission and up to \$3 rebate to sponsors. Car shows are handled a little different in that sponsors don't pay rent and the County receives all the food sales and parking fees. Also, festival sponsors wishing to receive more than \$1 rebate must seek approval by the Parks Commission.

Commissioner Klein asked about parking for fireworks event. Mr. Casasanta responded that parking fees are \$5 for fireworks as there is no other sponsor, however the Vietnam Veterans group will assist with bringing in entertainment and acquire the rights to serve beer during the 4th of July and will not be entitled to the parking fees.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SAUGER, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER SCHABATH TO KEEP PARKING RATES THE SAME IN 2007 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PARKS ADMINISTRATOR. MOTION CARRIED.

2007 Meeting Dates and Times

President Bucci recommended that the regular commission meetings be held the first Wednesday of each month at noon and opened the subject for discussion.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DIMARIA, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER LIPINSKI TO HOLD PARKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 12 NOON. MOTION CARRIED.

Master Plan

Mr. Santoro pointed out the Action Plan on pages 67-78, most importantly the capital improvement schedule. He further noted that anything that shows up in the action plan can become part of the capital improvement plan with a simple amendment. Mr. Santoro pointed out the updated full-scale maps showing generic memorials and asked for clarification on the name of the hall. The commission clarified the name of the hall as Ralph A. Liberato in the Independence Building.

Mr. Santoro requested a referral from the Parks Commission to the Planning Commission and Operational Services for the official approval process. Mr. Santoro further noted any minor changes that he would need them today, in order to get it ready for the Planning Commission next week.

Mr. Santoro responded to Commissioner Klein's question as to where the public hearing would be held and stated as the Board of Commissioners is the authority that adopts it and can be done at the full board meeting in March.

Commissioner DiMaria stated he supports moving the master plan along, however he believes we need to be more visionary at the park and adapt to the younger population.

President Bucci asked if some ideas Commissioner DiMaria expressed could be addressed in the Master Plan. Mr. Santoro responded it could be done administratively in the next few days.

Commissioner Klein suggested the following to the Master Plan, acknowledge master gardener program, update the number of acres at the park, and add canopy to building.

Commissioner Lipinski concurred with Commissioner DiMaria for different ideas on Freedom Hill, but the number one priority is expanding the park system itself. He further stated we could budget the needs of this park under capital improvement in our annual budget and that amendments can be made to the Master Plan.

Mr. Santoro pointed out that during the public forum comments were made to have more parks along the water. He further pointed out all comments are outlined in the appendix.

Commissioner Sawicki asked if the plan is amendable after being adopted. Mr. Santoro responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Casasanta expressed that we are still waiting for a report of land usage to the landfill on 50 acres of property that can be conducive for some of the activities previously discussed. Mr. Casasanta commented the commission would see how the park is used and more activities held at the park by attending the meetings at noon on Wednesdays.

Mr. Santoro stated the mitigation process of the landfill was considered and discussed before investing too much time, which resulted in highlighting the trails at the park for special area planning.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SCHABATH, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER STEVENSON TO APPROVE THE 2007 OPEN SPACE COMPREHENSIVE AND MASTER PLAN AND REFER TO THE MACOMB COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION AND MACOMB COUNTY FULL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR APPROVAL. MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Klein commended Mr. Santoro and Planning Department for all the hard work done on the Master Plan.

NEW BUSINESS

List of Organizations for Summer Brochures

Commissioner DiMaria stated we need to attract a greater population at the park with our summer brochures and requested a more expansive summer brochure distribution proposal from Tracey Moro, County Park Publicist, next month for review.

Commissioner Malone inquired of Corporation Counsel, if there is a need for a closed session.

President Bucci stated any items discussed on litigation should come from Corporation Counsel.

Commissioner Lipinski suggested a stipulation charge per day on non-removal of trailer and equipment be written in the Flea Markets proposal.

OTHER

Commissioner Klein suggested that the County Park approach Bethesda Church for coordinating public events.

Commissioner DiMaria requested to stipulate in the proposal for Flea Markets that trailer and equipment be removed at the end of season. Commissioner DiMaria raised concerns with the website problems and requested that the Director from Information Technology Department attend the next meeting to address these issues.

Mr. Casasanta stated a report would be available at the next meeting on advertising companies for comparison to Studio Communications for publishing and advertising.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER KLEIN, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER DIMARIA TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

President Bucci adjourned the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting at 1 p.m.

Sincerely,

William J. Revoir, Secretary
Macomb County Parks & Recreation Commission

WJR/sq